

To the Members of the California State Senate:

I am returning Senate Bill 65 without my signature.

I certainly support the sponsor's stated goal of the bill – to increase the number of students who graduate from colleges and universities with science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) degrees. It is vital not only for our economy, but also for our communities, to have populations of STEM discipline students and teachers which are more reflective of California's diversity. However, this bill requires \$3 million from the General Fund – dollars that were not allocated as part of the Budget Act of 2007. Therefore, it would not be prudent to approve this measure at this time.

I look forward to a discussion next year with interested parties to see how we can more appropriately accomplish our shared goal of ensuring that our STEM students and teachers better reflect the great diversity of our state.

For these reasons, I am unable to sign this bill.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger